MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 1996

for Steelhead (Sk'emquin) Provincial Park

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks
BC Parks Department

105-03321/

Steelhead (Sk'emquin)
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by
BC Parks Kamloops Area Pilot Project Team
for Thompson River District
Kamloops, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks

BC Parks
Kamloops, BC

APPROVALS

Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project
Binder Approvals Page

Forward

This binder contains 16 management plans developed under the Kamloops Area Management Planning Pilot Project. This project began in 1994 to develop, implement and evaluate a systems approach to management planning. The project concluded in October, 1996. The management plans contained in this binder provide long-term direction for a group of 10 Class A parks, five ecological reserves and one recreation area. The intention is to review this binder and the plans contained here at regular intervals. Plan vision statements and objectives will not change extensively over time. Management actions, however, will change as priorities, funding and support resources come available.

- ☐ Coldwater River Park
- ☐ Goldpan Park
- ☐ Juniper Beach Park
- ☐ Lac Le Jeune Park
- ☐ Marble Canyon Park
- ☐ McConnell Lake Park
- ☐ McQueen Creek Eco. Res.
- ☐ Monck Park
- ☐ Paul Lake Park
- ☐ Skihist Eco. Res.
- ☐ Skihist Park
- ☐ Skwaha Lake Eco. Res.
- ☐ Soap Lake Eco. Res.
- ☑ Steelhead Park
- ☐ Tranquille Eco. Res.
- ☐ Walloper Lake

Approved by:

District Manager
Thompson River District
BC Parks Department

Assistant Deputy Minister
Park Management Committee
BC Parks Department

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Steelhead (Sk'emqin) Provincial Park

Management Plan

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Steelhead (Sk'emqin) Provincial Park

Management Plan

Introduction

This management plan defines the role of Steelhead Park within the provincial park system and the objectives and guidelines for managing the resources and visitor use activities in the park.

The park role, objectives and zoning as stated in this plan cannot be contravened in meaning or intent without consultation with the public, the Skeetchestn Band and approval of the District Manager and the Parks Management Committee (PMC). A five year business plan is included as appendix B to provide direction for management and development of the park. The business plan is subject to annual review and adjustments.

Background

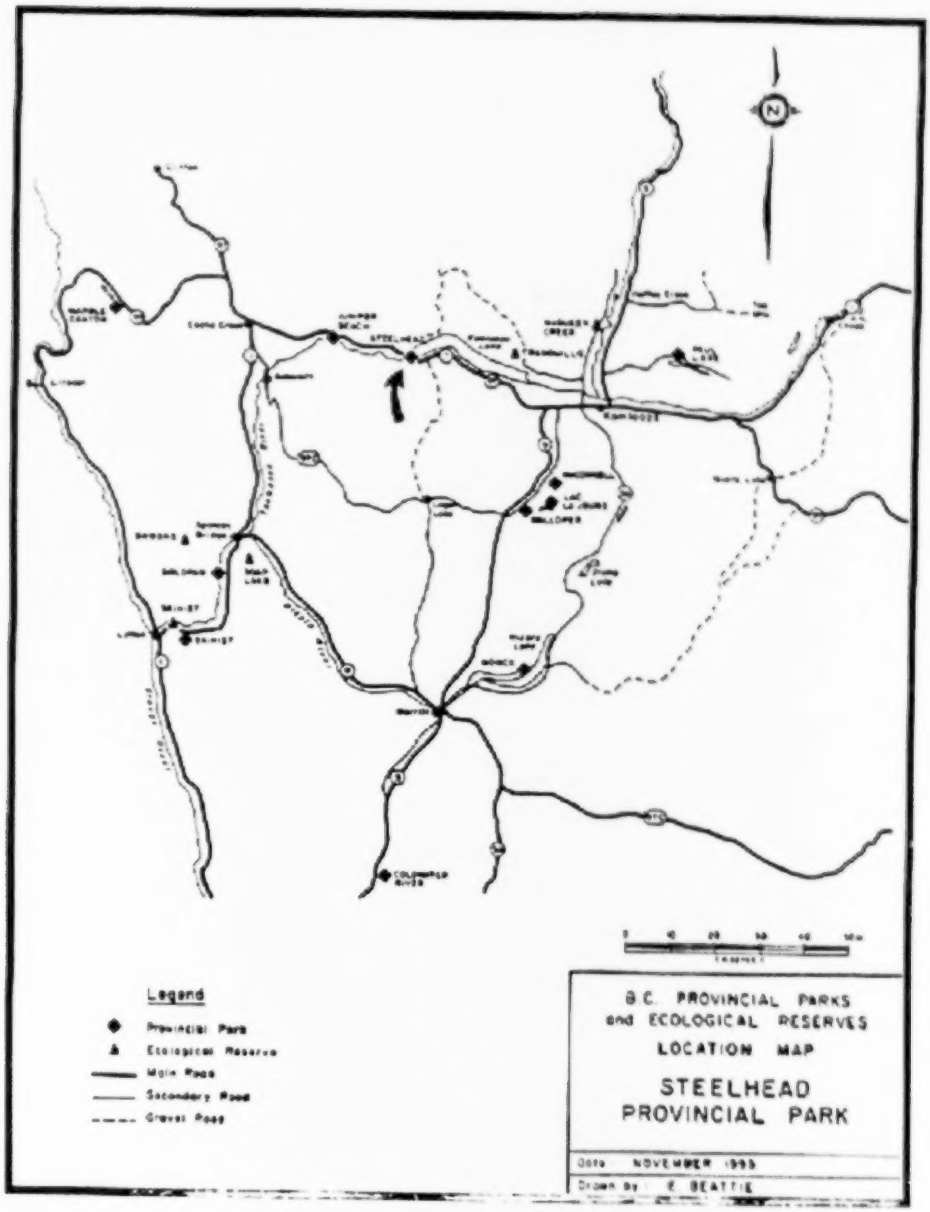
Location

West end and outlet of Kamloops Lake; approximately 40 kilometres west of Kamloops.

Memorandum of Understanding

A memorandum of understanding between the Government and the Skeetchestn Band was signed on July 8, 1995.

"The proposed Steelhead (Sk'emqin) Park is through a government to government relationship between Skeetchestn and the Government of BC, develop and maintain a program of the interpretation of the local history and culture of the Secwepemc of Skeetchestn, along with the history of the local non-aboriginal settlement and the inter-relationship of the two societies. The interpretation of the local culture and traditions by Secwepemc people will also provide opportunities for the local Secwepemc to learn, practice, preserve, display and teach their ancient heritage while developing managerial skills and providing economic opportunities for the area."


Legend
Provincial Park
Ecological Reserve
Main Road
Secondary Road
Gravel Road
B.C. PROVINCIAL PARKS
and ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
LOCATION MAP
STEELHEAD
PROVINCIAL PARK
Date NOVEMBER 1993
Drawn by E. BEATTIE

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Protected Area Values

Conservation:
One of only two parks (Juniper Beach is the other) in the provincial park system that represent natural, semi-arid conditions of the Thompson River valley, within the Thompson Basin Ecosection;

Dry bluebunch-wheatgrass and sagebrush, dispersed ponderosa pine and cottonwood-willow river riparian habitats;

Trumpeter swans winter along the frontage of the site;

Kettle and other glacial-fluvial formations of regional interest;

Gravel deposits in the river adjacent to the park are a provincially important pink salmon spawning habitat; major spawning runs of pink, spring and sockeye salmon pass by the park.

Recreation:

240 metres of beach frontage on Kamloops Lake and over 1000 metres of frontage along the Thompson River; approximately 38 ha of upland above the lake and along the river.

Strategically situated to serve regional day use and tourism travel and destination needs, and to provide public access to both Kamloops Lake and the Thompson River.

Cultural:

Significant archaeological values relating to fishing and occupancy use of the site by the Shuswap (Secwepemc) people, dating back 7,000 to 10,000 ye ars; site known as Sk'emqin;

Historical fur trade use and route;

Early pioneer settlement and cattle ranching use with one of the oldest (1859) existing structures in the B.C. Interior; historically known as "the Point";

Historic travel corridor with a ferry, stagecoach and later railroad and trans Canada Highway developments.

Other Agency Interests

Protection of the site is of concern to BC Environment for its fisheries management programs and for the maintenance of public fishing access to the Thompson River;

Federal Fisheries Branch uses the site for its management activities. Heritage Conservation Branch interested in archaeological values.

Private Sector Interests

Savona Heritage Committee - involvement in protecting and interpreting the historic buildings and use of the site.

First Nations Interests

Skeetchestn Indian Band - protection of cultural deposits and artifacts; interpretation of native history; possible employment benefits arising from park.

Existing Land Uses And Encumbrances

Rights-of-Way:

portion of Savona Rd; gazetted December 29, 1927
Westcoast Transmission Co. Ltd. - pipeline
Westcoast Transmission Co. Ltd. - private road
Westcoast Petroleum - pipeline
Western Pacific Products & Crude Oil Pipeline Ltd – pipeline

Role of the Park

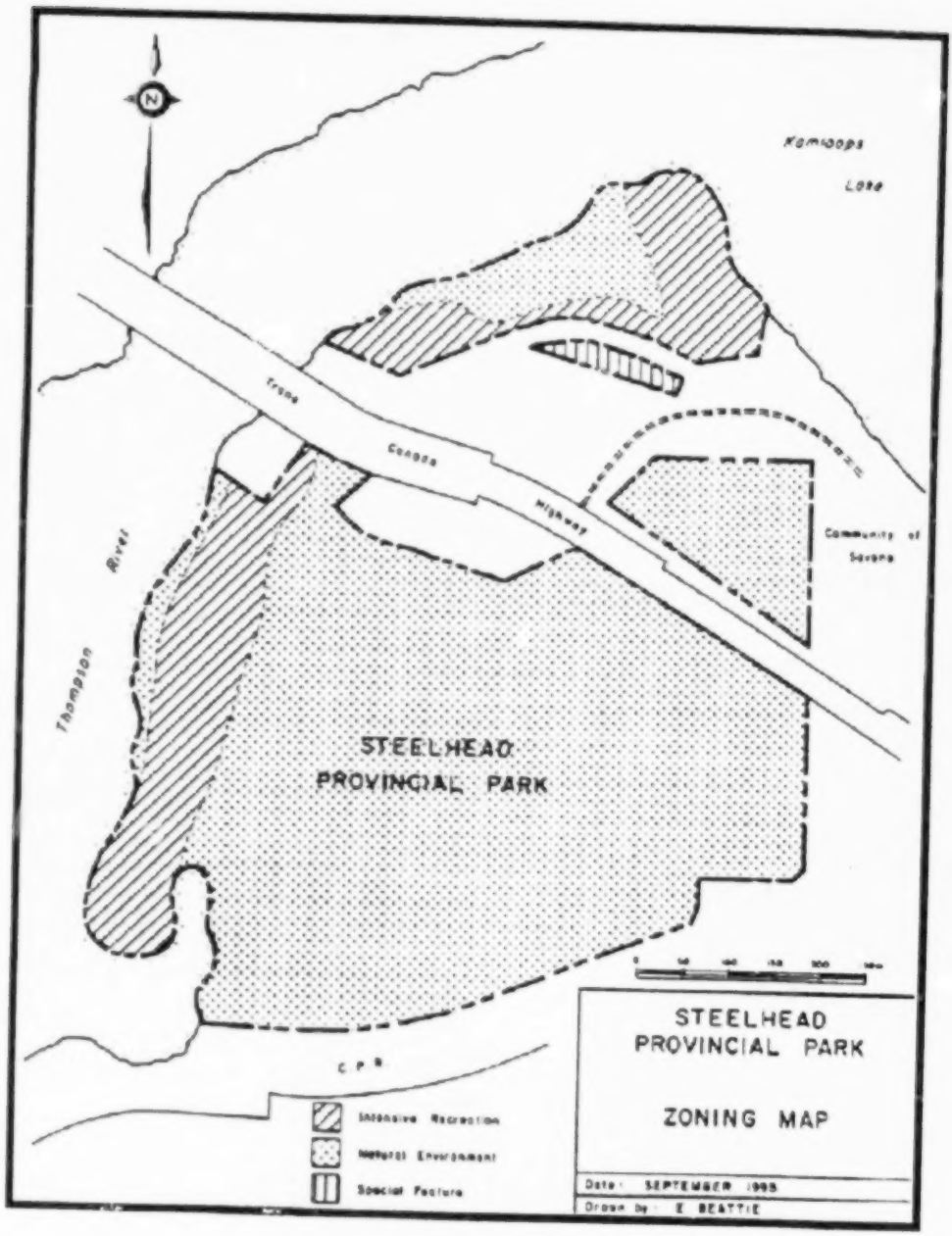
BC Parks presently manages the land and resources of the park to protect conservation values and to maintain options for future provision of recreation opportunities. Overtime as development proceeds and management presence intensifies, the park will fulfil the following:

For Conservation

To protect and enhance the natural habitats and plant and animal species found in the park.

To significantly contribute to the system of representative protected natural habitats in the Thompson Basin Ecosection

To maintain the character and qualities of the environment and features which form the aesthetic and recreational appeal of the park.


N
Kamloops
Lake
Trans
Canada
Highway
Thompson
River
Community of
Savona
STEELHEAD
PROVINCIAL PARK
C P R
Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Special Feature
STEELHEAD
PROVINCIAL PARK
ZONING MAP
Date: SEPTEMBER 1983
Drawn by: E BEATTIE

For Recreation

To provide opportunities for destination, travel corridor and regional day use. Recreation activities will include camping, boating, river rafting, fishing, canoeing, beach and waterplay, picnicking, camping and interpretation of natural and cultural history.

For Culture

To protect and perpetuate cultural and archaeological values.

To focus public information and interpretation programs on the cultural/heritage values of the park.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement looks forward through the next 15 or so years to how the park will evolve and be used within the provincial park system.

"By the turn of the century, measures will be in place to protect and restore the natural and cultural values of the park and basic amenities will be established to allow for boating access to Kamloops Lake and the Thompson River, and camping, picnicking and swimming-beach use on Kamloops Lake. The park will be popular for destination-vacation use, highway travel day and overnight use and regional and community day use. A significant attraction of the park will be the interpretation programs and features, focusing on cultural and native history as well as natural values of the park and surrounding area.

Through the first decade of the new century, the grassland, river and lakeshore riparian habitats will begin to recover to natural conditions and facilities will continue to improve with additional camping provided along the Thompson River. Shade trees and shrubs planted in the late 1990's in the campground and day use areas are well established, increasing the appeal and attraction of the park for recreation use."

ZONING

The Park is separated into two zones:

Intensive Recreation

Includes the frontage and upland along Kamloops Lake and a strip of land running parallel to the access road above the Thompson River. This zone set limits for campground, day-use and interpretation facility development.

Natural Environment

Takes in the riparian habitats along the River and a major portion of the grasslands on the south side of the Highway. The intent in this zone is to recover and protect the natural conditions of these environments. Trails and interpretation signing will be allowed.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS AND OBJECTIVES

Conservation

To secure the boundaries of the park with clearly defined and manageable control from surrounding private land.

To pursue extension of park boundaries over the foreshore of Kamloops Lake and the Thompson River to control inappropriate activities and to protect fish spawning and rearing habitats.

To minimize disruption to vegetation within the natural environment zone.

To maintain the natural diversity of species presently found within the Park and to allow the natural establishment of other native species.

To control infestations of noxious weeds. Native insect and disease species will be accepted as a normal course of nature, unless there is potential detrimental impact to nearby private properties and to critical wildlife and plant species in the Park. Fire outbreaks will be suppressed.

To establish trees and shrubs in association with campground and day-use facilities. Indigenous dryland species will be used where feasible. Species selection will consider attributes for screening, shading, durability and maintenance.

To maintain a biophysical inventory of the park and ongoing long term monitoring of conditions and changes to habitats and composition, distribution and densities of plant and animal species.

To encourage non-destructive scientific studies and inventories and research projects in the park. The grassland habitats provide opportunity to establish a benchmark for research purposes.

Recreation

To establish facilities and services for:

boating access to Kamloops Lake and the Thompson River
destination/transient camping
beach and picnicking catering both to campground and day-users
First Nations, post contact and natural history interpretation

Park development will be phased over two or possibly three stages. The initial stage will focus on re-establishing use of the old private campground taking advantage of roads, camppads and toilet/washhouse infrastructure, much as was done at nearby Juniper Beach Provincial Park. Early progress on this project will depend on securement of partnership(s) in developing and managing the facilities. Initial development will include a campground capacity of 30 to 40 sites, boatlaunch and day-use parking and picnic facilities.

Phase 2 will see further expansion of the campground and construction of additional camping opportunities on the southern portion of the park, with campsites aligned along the top of the rim, overlooking the Thompson River. Implementation of these expansion phases will be contingent on development of an interpretive plan, government funding sources and or/combination of an expanded cooperative venture with the private sector.

Park facilities will be designed and managed in harmony with the park setting.

To interpret the native and post-contact history and natural values of the park and Savona area. Topics to be developed;

Pre-contact history:
A detailed plan and strategy will be developed in co-operation with the local Skeetchestn band. Themes may include pre-contact uses of plants and animals, food preparation and storage and shelter. Development of these themes may be done through a visitor centre, signs, displays, self-guiding trails, or hands-on experiences. Interpretive programs will involve direct participation of Native people.

Post-contact history:
Interpretation of the post-contact history will include themes relating to fur trade routes, settlement, ranching and transportation. Interpretation will take advantage of the old "house" as an historic feature with displays and information about the early pioneering life in the area. There may be opportunity to involve the Savona Heritage Committee in developing the interpretive stories.

Natural history:
Interpretation of the natural history component will include themes relating to the geological, glacial and post-glacial processes which have shaped the area, and toe present biological make-up which constitutes the natural semi-arid conditions representative of the Thompson River Basin.

Culture

To protect archaeological and cultural features from inappropriate and potential damaging activities. General strategies will include:

- Vehicles will be strictly restricted to designated roads and parking surfaces.

- To stabilize and, if funding is secured, restore the historic large house. Co-operative funding and volunteer involvement in restoration and maintenance will be sought. The small log cabin and log barn building are in such poor condition and of minor historic significance that they may not be worth saving, however, these structures may be restored if the Savona Heritage Committee is prepared to fund and manage the restoration of these two buildings.

Appendix A - Service Level Explanation

BC Parks service levels provide a method of defining the facilities, information and services which the public can expect within the BC Provincial Parks system. The service levels do not include any measure of the capacity or use of the area, operating standards, or resource management issues. Instead, they are strictly a list of the key facilities and services that may be provided within a particular campground or day-use area. They also provide an opportunity to explore and understand the relationship between the facilities and services BC Parks offers and the expectations of the users or potential users. This will help in making decisions based on the type and grade of facilities and services that BC Parks plans to provide and their associated costs.

Table 1. Campground Service Levels Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel, dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit or none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	pressure or handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Campsites	standard design	standard design	standard design	informal (non-standard)
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type I or II	Type II
▪ Sani-station	available	available	not usually available	not available
▪ Showers	available	not available	not available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Campground entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available
▪ Security	up to 24 hour	routine patrols	occasional patrols	no patrols
▪ Visitor programs	available	possibly available	not usually available	not available

Table 2. Day-use Areas Service Level Attributes

Attribute	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Facilities				
▪ Roads	paved	paved	usually gravel	gravel , dirt or none
▪ Toilets	flush	usually flush	pit	pit on none
▪ Water system	pressure	pressure	handpump	not usually supplied
▪ Tables	Type I	Type I	Type II	Type II or none
▪ Change House	available (if suitable for swimming)	available (if suitable for swimming)	not usually available	not available
Information				
▪ Park entrance sign	portal or plaque	plaque	plaque or Type A	Type A
▪ Day-use Areas entrance sign	Type A	Type A	Type A	Type A or none
▪ Visitor centre	usually available	not available	not available	not available
▪ Information Structures	information shelter	information shelter	single signs	single sign or no information
Services				
▪ Public Telephone	usually available	usually available	not usually available	not available
▪ Garbage Collection	minimum daily	minimum daily	minimum weekly	not usually available

APPENDIX B FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Steelhead Park

Steelhead Park is located in the Savona area at the west end of Kamloops Lake and extends for one kilometre along the Thompson River. This park protects many natural and cultural values as well as archaeological values.

Goal: to identify, protect and maintain the park's natural and cultural values.
Action: develop a resource management plan.

Goal: to protect riparian habitat along river and lake shore.
Action: add foreshore next to the park.

Goal: to protect and maintain heritage buildings.
Action: develop a heritage management plan.

Goal: identify commercial users of the park.
Actions:
- ensure commercial use is not contrary to park management plan.
- authorize commercial use with issuance of a park use permit.

Goal: to inform the public about the cultural heritage and archaeological values of the park.
Actions:
- develop, in cooperation with the Skeetchestn Band, an information package for the park's cultural heritage and archaeological values.
- install appropriate information signs and displays in the park.